

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E.O. 11652:NA

TAGS:AODE, EAGR, RO

SUBJECT:MODE - FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE PROPOSAL TO
ESTABLISH AN AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE OFFICE IN BUCHAREST IN
FY 78

1. AS PART OF ITS FY 78 BUDGET PREPARATIONS, THE FOREIGN
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE (FAS) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, IS
PROPOSING TO ESTABLISH AN AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE OFFICE AT
THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN BUCHAREST. THE FAS FUNCTION IS
CURRENTLY AUTHORIZED ONE FOREIGN NATIONAL ANALYST (STATE
166101, BUCHAREST 3972); THE FY-78 PROPOSAL WOULD ADD AN
AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE AND AN AMERICAN SECRETARY.

2. FAS' JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PROPOSAL IS AS FOLLOWS:
QUOTE. BY ANY YARDSTICK--THE VALUE OF GROSS AGRICULTURAL
OUTPUT, THE SHARE OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, OR THE SHARE
OF THE LABOR FORCE--AGRICULTURE IS MORE IMPORTANT IN
ROMANIA THAN IN ALMOST ALL EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THE
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SIGNIFICANCE OF AGRICULTURE IN ROMANIA IS READILY ACKNOW-

LEGED BY AMBASSADOR BARNES, AND IS REFLECTED IN THE WORKLOAD OF THE EMBASSY. HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY FEELS THAT THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION HAS DEVOTED AN INORDINATE AMOUNT OF TIME TO AGRICULTURAL MATTERS IN RECENT YEARS

BECAUSE OF THE PROLIFERATION OF OFFICIAL AGRICULTURAL CONTACTS AS WELL AS THE EMERGENCE OF ROMANIA AS A MAJOR MARKET FOR U.S. AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES IN EASTERN EUROPE.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ROMANIA TO U.S. FARM INTERESTS IS INDICATED BY THE EXCHANGE OF VISITS BY SECRETARY BUTZ AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE MICULESCU, AS WELL AS THEIR SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND COOPERATION. THESE INTERESTS ARE NOT BEING ADEQUATELY SERVED. THERE IS A NEED FOR A RESIDENT AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE TO COLLECT, ANALYZE, AND REPORT AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION TO USDA. ROMANIA'S DEVELOPMENT IN RECENT YEARS AS A MARKET FOR AMERICAN FARM PRODUCTS HAS BEEN EXCEEDED IN EASTERN EUROPE ONLY BY EAST GERMANY. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE ROMANIAN INTEREST IN U.S. FEEDGRAINS, OILSEEDS, AND BREEDING STOCK. ON THE BASIS OF ROMANIA'S DEVELOPMENT AS A MARKET FOR AMERICAN FARM PRODUCTS (1 MILLION DOLLARS IN 1968 TO 156.5 MILLION DOLLARS IN 1974), ITS LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT PLANS, AND ITS EXTREME SUSCEPTIBILITY TO THE VAGARIES OF THE WEATHER, THE MARKET POTENTIAL IN ROMANIA IS EXCELLENT. BUT AGRICULTURAL MARKET DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN ROMANIA HAVE BEEN HAMPERED AT TIMES BY THE HEAVY WORKLOAD OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL. A RESIDENT AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE COULD BETTER COORDINATE AND IMPLEMENT THIS IMPORTANT ACTIVITY. END QUOTE.

3. FYI. EUR BUREAU SERIOUSLY QUESTIONS WHETHER THE CURRENT STATE OF OUR AGRICULTURAL TRADE WARRANTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN FAS SECTION IN BUCHAREST. THE EMBASSY WAS RECENTLY AUTHORIZED TO HIRE A LOCAL ASSISTANT TO HELP THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION COVER AGRICULTURAL MATTERS. ALTHOUGH EXPORTS OF U.S. FARM PRODUCTS HAVE INCREASED SINCE 1968, THE USE OF 1974 FIGURES IS SOMEWHAT MISLEADING BECAUSE OF THE UNUSUALLY HIGH LEVEL OF EXPORTS REACHED THAT YEAR FOLLOWING POOR HARVESTS IN ROMANIA. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE BUREAU DOUBTS THAT THE CONTRIBUTION WHICH THE FAS PROPOSAL COULD MAKE TO THE LEVEL OF EXPORT PROMOTION REPORTING AND ANALYSIS PRESENTLY CONDUCTED BY THE EMBASSY WOULD WARRANT THE CREATION OF TWO NEW AMERICAN POSITIONS FOR AN AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE OFFICE. END FYI.

4. MISSION COMMENTS ARE REQUESTED CONCERNING THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE OFFICE IN BUCH-

AREST IN FY 78. A REPLY BY AUGUST 30 WILL BE APPRECIATED.
DEPARTMENT WILL SEEK VIEWS OF AMBASSADOR BARNES DURING HIS
WASHINGTON CONSULTATION PRIOR TO RETURNING TO POST. WILL
UTILIZE MISSION VIEWS IN COMMUNICATING TO BOTH FAS AND OMB
ITS ASSESSMENT ON THIS FAS FY 78 BUDGET PROPOSAL. KISSINGER

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